U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

September 15, 2005

AUSTIN POLICE DETECTIVE PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL CHILD PORN CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that this morning in Austin, Texas, Lance Boyce McConnell of Lockhart, Texas, pled guilty to federal child pornography charges.

Appearing before United States District Judge Sam Sparks, McConnell pled guilty to three counts of receipt of child pornography, two counts of possession of child pornography and two counts of transportation/transmittal of child pornography. As a result, McConnell faces up to ten years in federal prison per possession of child pornography count and not less than five years and not more than twenty years for the receipt and transportation of child pornography counts. No sentencing date has been scheduled.

By pleading guilty, McConnell admitted that in October and December 2004, he knowingly downloaded from the Internet to his home computer numerous images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

On March 23, 2005, investigators with the Texas Attorney General's Office executed a search warrant at McConnell's address and seized four computers as well as other digital media. Forensic analysis of one of the computers resulted in the discovery of between 300 and 600 digital images and digital movie files depicting minor children under the age of eighteen engaged in sexual conduct.

"Child pornography hurts children. A police officer should know that better than anyone," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "This is a sad day for the people of Austin because we now know that one who was sworn to protect and serve the innocent, instead committed a terrible crime."

This case was investigated by the Texas Attorney General's Office - Cyber Crimes Unit. Special Assistant United States Attorney Grant Sparks is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

#####